

Daniel Ellsberg at FFF Conference, Part 7 of 8

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4TyzqepWxo> (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4TyzqepWxo>)

Uploaded by [The Future of Freedom Foundation](#)

(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqOG4zIDmbIUk12Fzwg5tLA>) on Thu Sep 06 2007.

Daniel Ellsberg on "Iran and Iraq: The Need for Pentagon Papers" at the Future of Freedom Foundation's <http://fff.org> Restoring the Republic, 2007.

Daniel Ellsberg was born in Detroit in 1931. After graduating from Harvard in 1952 with a B. A. summa cum laude in Economics, he studied for a year at King's College, Cambridge University, on a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship.

Playlist of Ellsberg's lecture: http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=5FFB8C4C61A02CF6

[00:00:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4TyzqepWxo\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4TyzqepWxo)

we are a military and that that's so deeply embedded in every precinct and so contradictory is an imperial project so the Empire is so deep into our economy and our culture into our minds now there's really no going back that's what he thinks I can't accept that first of all nothing is that certain nothing is certain and though it's to greater certainty second where the stakes are this high that it's worth struggling very hard and struggling how I'll mention one way that apply or I can generalize it as though it's some of you have read my article in Harper's last October you can see it on my website Ellsberg dotnet Harper's article asked the theme of that is I believe that people who know of the plans for catastrophe what they see is a catastrophic plan in Iran a new war or for that matter the continuation of this war but especially a new war which is easier to stop and one that's going on should consider doing what not what I did doing what I wish I had done years earlier in 1964-65 when I was in the Pentagon before I went to Vietnam is remember the State Department for two years but when I was in the Pentagon and knew that Lyndon Johnson was lying to the public in every aspect of the war before the Tonkin Gulf Resolution and after the Tonkin Gulf Resolution I had those documents in my safe I wish I had done what Wayne Morris told me would have averted the war he was the one who

[00:02:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4TyzqepWxo&t=120s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4TyzqepWxo&t=120s)

have averted the war he was the one who voted against the Tonkin Gulf Resolution but there are only two at that point he said if you had given me those documents after I had put them out years later in nineteen seventy one he said if you'd given those to me at the time 1964 the Tonkin Gulf Resolution would never have gone come out of committee and if they had bypassed the committee and gone to the floor it would never have passed well that's a heavy burden to bear and I'm telling people Indian in the administration right now you don't have to bear that burden you do have an alternative and it might put you in prison now and it might have put me in prison and slightly but even but now it's even more likely why not why should not an official be willing to risk prison to avert the deaths of uncountable numbers of Iranians Iraqis and American troops in ways that would decrease our security enormously as Iraq is decrease your security why should not some of these people were in the military I was in Iraq I was in Vietnam as a civilian but I used my marine training to go into combat to observe and I saw courage all around me everybody risking their lives for the orders for their teammates for whatever it was was expected of them and they had all had it in them why could not an official be asked by you by us to be willing to risk their clearance their career their job these are not light things this is not something you do routinely you don't do it every time the government lives you wouldn't stay in government for a day or a week if that but when the lies involve this many lives in this catastrophe to our Constitution because I think in a war with Iran or the next 911 the Constitution and the Bill of Rights will

[00:04:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4TyzqepWxo&t=240s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4TyzqepWxo&t=240s)

Constitution and the Bill of Rights will go the way of the phy my Republican just be swept away in a day so this enormous emphasis on averting that and what's new for me is to apply the same standard to Congress when as Senator Durbin tells us I knew in 2002 everything that's come out since we were told the truth on the intelligence way but I couldn't tell them because I had promised secrecy I'll end with his last thought they've all forgotten the oath that every member of Congress took that every member of the service took every civilian official to which is to protect and uphold the Constitution to defend and uphold the Constitution it's not an oath to the leader to the Fuehrer to the commander-in-chief to superior officers it is to the constitution period now I don't think and I've discussed this with Krogh it ever occurred to us that there could be a conflict between that oath and our sense of loyalty to our boss to our agency to the to the government department to above all to the president how could there be a conflict well for 10 there was I've violated that oath every day every day that I held onto those documents in the Pentagon knowing that Congress had been lied to knowing that we were lying not only into a war but into an unwinnable wrongful war neo-colonial war hopeless endless and so forth I went along with that that's true of everybody in the Pentagon right now every congressperson and Islam sheer says the journalists who show it I've seen this in combat incredible courage in facing fire they don't wear a helmet because it interferes with their camera and Horst Faso used to see that all the time but back home a boss the stories get spiked the line comes they don't risk careers risk lives but not careers that's the theme that were raised in okay I'm saying it does go against our oath the Constitution that we take an

[00:06:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4TyzqepWxo&t=361s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4TyzqepWxo&t=361s)

oath the Constitution that we take an oath to in the officials and that people here I invite you to take very seriously so long as we haven't gotten back to the Articles of Confederation but with the Constitution should be taken seriously I think that the people who wrote that and who earlier said that they would pledge their lives their honor their sacred honor their lives their fortunes and their sacred honor for that government without a king without a king we're right to do so it's right to take those risks now and it comes down to Iraq when I described a future that the Democrats are buying on to at this point well the least bad outcome is to keep in those spaces and for this reason of that reason to ignore the fact that that is an indefinite illegal occupation of the country that does not want to be occupied and that will fire at us and divided ease forever as long as we're there and I would say as a moral matter the United States by the lives we have lost and the lives we have taken we have bought no right we've gained no right to decide by fire and bombing who shall live and who shall govern in Iraq the United States must stop killing Iraqis of course the bell rights and the impeachment clause which is now regarded as Oh impeachment off the table the three crises were facing our Iraq but that's a rolling crisis my own opinion is that neither Democrats no Republicans will get us out of Iraq when it comes to keeping bases there Hilary has virtually

[00:08:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4TyzqepWxo&t=481s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4TyzqepWxo&t=481s)

keeping bases there Hilary has virtually Hillary Clinton is virtually promise has said explicitly she would keep them there I won't go into that she would not get all the troops out she'd this was March thirteenth reported March 14th the New York Times looked it up on google is very worth seeing she explicitly came out and said I would not get all the troops out of there well she's not alone on that that is the Pelosi bill that's what many other people are coming and the President himself is not talking about considering plans for cutting things down in half staying in the bases in Kurdistan near Baghdad the Green Zone the various other bases preventing the country from going into chaos preventing Turkey from coming into Curtis and various other interests that involve keeping our bases in the oil regions forever I think and when the president said through Tony Snow two days ago and Gates said yesterday that he thinks Korea remember that is a good model is a good model we're talking 50 and 60 years and I've been saying that for the last couple years that's what I think is likely of course I'm struggling against it I would like not that not to happen I think that is what is likely to happen in elected a democrat will not change that in my opinion second I just have a minute left here I'll have to speak very around me I'm going to take two minutes on sorry in a second Iran there are those people

that I respect Robert Scheer for example I respect his opinion in most things on such things more than mine or as much as mine and others who think that is zero probability now I disagree it's true it would be insanity it's true that it would be you know I don't even have don't have time to go through but you know all the reasons what that would be terrible terrible effect and consequences should be off the table and yet the Democrats like the Republicans

[00:10:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4TyzgepWxo&t=600s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4TyzgepWxo&t=600s)

yet the Democrats like the Republicans have been saying it's on the table including the use of nuclear weapons if necessary well that could be just private oshio and bargaining and so forth

END